



# El Clarin

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey

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## ASPIRA Launches A \$1.5 Million Capital Campaign

After several relocations due to the constant demand for space and the escalating rents in Newark, ASPIRA's Board of Directors decided that the time had come for the agency to buy a home. In 1989, following a year of feasibility studies and expert advice, ASPIRA moved to the building at 390 Broad Street with an option to buy. The ASPIRA "Building on Two Decades of Service" capital campaign was officially kicked-off this past May 14th with a breakfast hosted by former Governor, president of Drew University and campaign chairman, Mr. Thomas Kean.

The capital campaign committee headed by Kean is made up of business and community leaders. It includes Bishop David Arias of the Newark Archdiocese; Raymond G. Chambers, chairman of Amelior Corp.; New Jersey Bell president James Cullen; Donald Daniels, chairman and chief executive officer of Blue Cross-Blue Shield of New Jersey; Saul Fenster, president of the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Jerome Greco, senior vice president of First Fidelity Bank; Newark Mayor Sharpe James; Edward J. Lenihan; Alan V. Lowenstein of the law firm of Lowenstein, Sandler, Kohl, Fisher and Boilan; Catherine McFarland, executive director of the Victoria Foundation; and Marshall Wolf, vice president of Midlantic National Bank.

Governor Kean told those who were present at the breakfast, "ASPIRA really works. It is

different because it has a track record. The idea of a permanent home is right."

Fred Meissner, also on the committee and a member of ASPIRA's committee of sponsors, stressed how much the organization had grown in the fifteen years he had been involved. "Programs will be able to grow when the building belongs to ASPIRA," he said.

ASPIRA also celebrated the beginning of the campaign with a reception held at its offices at 390 Broad Street on May 17th for community leaders, alumni, board members, staff, students and friends.

"We want a place where the kids can come after school to study, work in the computer room, have private conferences with their counselors and get off the streets," Dr. Elsa Nufiez-Wormack, chairperson of the board of directors, told the guests.

In addition to program and administrative offices, the new building will house a computer lab, classrooms for bilingual instruction and GED preparation, and common areas for student activities. It is conveniently located in the heart of Newark's business district, accessible to mass transportation and the schools ASPIRA works with. The building, originally built by the National Cash Register (NCR) company, has a total of 24,000 square feet of space for office, program and rental use.

The goal of the "Building on Two Decades of Service" campaign is to raise \$1.5 million over the next three years beginning in 1990. Funds will be raised from corporations, foundations, community based organizations and individual donors.

## Board of Education Approves ASPIRA Resolution

The Newark Board of Education approved ASPIRA's resolution to conduct a district wide in-school fund raising campaign to coincide with the Hispanic Heritage Month during the month of November, 1990. ASPIRA will collect voluntary donations from students for funding the agency's "Building on Two Decades of Services" capital campaign. As part of the process, ASPIRA will also be teaching students the importance of civic responsibility.



Delia Sosa (r), during her Washington, D.C. internship, with her mentor, Dr. Antonia Novello, U.S. Surgeon General.

## What Were Our Aspirantes up to this Summer? BUSY!

The ASPIRA summer internship programs offer students a unique opportunity to gain work experience and exposure to different careers. Students are placed in real jobs under the supervision of a professional, in some cases an ASPIRA alumnus. Currently there are three types of internship programs being offered: AT&T, Public Policy Leadership and Health Careers at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ).

### AT&T

The AT&T Summer Internship Program gives inner city Hispanic high school students an opportunity to work in a corporate environment and be exposed to different areas of the computer and high tech industry. Each student receives from a supervisor specific assignments and projects which must be completed before the end of the summer. These professionals serve as mentors to the students, providing guidance on continuing education and career development.

When the AT&T program began in 1987, there were nine Aspirantes participating. Now, fifteen to twenty students are placed every year. With a company as large as AT&T, there are so many departments that students can gain exposure

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From left to right: Fred G. Meissner, Jr., former Gov. Thomas Kean and Elsa Nufiez-Wormack, ASPIRA chairperson.



## Message from our Executive Director

The Summer of 1990 was an exciting one for ASPIRA of New Jersey. Our celebration of the "Fiestas de Loiza Aldea", at the Newark and Trenton Puerto Rican Parades, was a tremendous success thanks to the hard work of Aspirantes, staff, board members, alumni and other volunteers.

There were many special people who took part in this event from beginning to end. Willie Sanchez, the master mind behind the event, and Miriam Santiago, are alumni who volunteered endless hours because they believe that the ASPIRA Process really works. Ilda Rodas, the beautiful "bomba" dancer whose picture you saw in the front page of several newspapers (also in this issue), inspired us to celebrate our music and culture. She is one of our finest; chosen Aspirante of the Year 1990 for her genuine commitment to ASPIRA and her leadership as president of the Barringer High School Club.

Indeed it was a very special summer! We witnessed two generations of Aspirantes joining to celebrate the richness of our Puerto Rican heritage in a unique way. It was wonderful to see more than two hundred people dressed in bright colors; dancing and singing; working toward a goal; and feeling good about themselves.

*Nilda Rosario*

AT&T Continued from page 1

to different areas of expertise such as Systems and Automation; Administration of State Government Affairs; Accounting and Finance; and Legal. AT&T Liaison, Ms. Bunnie Pinkerton, and ASPIRA Coordinator, Ms. Sandra Doherty try to match a student's career interests and skills to the appropriate internship.

This summer Paul F. Campana worked in Information Management Services (IMS), Human Resources. He researched, interviewed and wrote articles for several of the company's newsletters. He also developed a database to forecast projected entry level management programmer/analyst hiring needs.

Hoover Herrera worked for the Competitive Intelligence Database (CID) team. His main

project was the updating of CID's Data Content Quality Assurance Report. He gathered information for the report through interviews and research. The report will be a key research tool for many business groups at AT&T.

Gloria Perez learned to use several software packages. One project was to use Freelance to create new user interface structure charts for Service Rates Data Base Private Line services (SRDB).

Aside from all the high tech jargon, all of the 1990 AT&T internship participants got some great experience this summer!

### Public Policy Leadership Program

The Public Policy Leadership Program was designed to expose students to careers in the public and nonprofit sectors while developing their leadership skills.

During the spring a group of students is placed in local internships with City and State officials, and various community based organizations. They learn about leadership, public policy; law, politics, and communication, while making strong contacts with local leaders. In addition, students learn the importance of serving the community, a key part of ASPIRA's mission.

In July, the top four students from this group are selected to participate in the ASPIRA Association Public Policy Leadership Program in Washington, D.C. This program offers students the opportunity to serve national

internships with U.S. Representatives and Senators; high-ranking government officials; Hispanics in national public administration and political organizations; and members of the media.

The other exciting aspect of the Washington internships is that Aspirantes from all six ASPIRA Associates participate. So our New Jersey students get to meet their counterparts from New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Florida and Puerto Rico. This begins a wonderful network at a national level! Maybe someday these students will be working side by side representing their own state in the House of Representatives or the Senate!



Cynthia Calderon with her mentor, The Honorable Myrna Milan, Newark Municipal Court Judge.

Cynthia Calderon, who will enter the 11th grade at Queen of Pech High School in North Arlington, did her local internship with Honorable Judge Myrna Milan, the first Hispanic woman to be a Newark Municipal Court Judge and an ASPIRA alumna. In Washington, Cindy did her internship with Mr. Jerry Cony, Accountant, Office of the Comptroller, U.S. Department of Justice.

Agustin Javier Druz, who will enter the 11th grade at James J. Ferris High School in Jersey City, did his local internship with Superior Court Judge, Hon. Severiano Lisboa. His Washington internship was with Mr. Felix Perez of the Hispanic Link News Service in D.C.

Sylvia E. Ramirez, who will be a senior at our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Newark, did her local internship with Ms. Nelida Valentin, Director of the Hispanic Leadership Opportunities Program at La Casa de Don Pedro. In Washington, she did her

### HELP US REACH OUR \$1.5 MILLION GOAL!

Send your contribution or pledge to the following address:

ASPIRA  
Building on Two Decades of  
Service Campaign  
390 Broad Street  
Newark, NJ 07104

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please make your check out to ASPIRA, Inc. or N.J.

For more information call 201-484-7554.



Paul Campana with AT&T Liaison Ms. Bunnie Pinkerton.



Dr. Eric Muñoz, Medical Director, with student interns, Dely Seda, Hector Seda and Neysa Cruz, at UMDNJ Hospital. Internships were designed to expose students to the medical and health care fields.

internship with Mr. Julian Martinez, Special Assistant to the Chairman of Hispanic Affairs, Republican National Committee.

**Delia Sosa**, a graduate of James J. Ferris High School in Jersey City, did her local internship with Dr. Eric Muñoz, Medical Director of UMDNJ Hospital. Her Washington internship was with Dr. Antonia Novello, U.S. Surgeon General.

## Math and Science Conference For Junior High School

This ASPIRA conference, held at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) last April, was specially designed to meet the needs of junior high school students. Attending the event were students from schools in Newark and Trenton.

In addition to information on college programs, the conference featured workshops and presentations in the math and science fields. A total of six workshops were offered that required "hands on" activity. Topics included: scientific exploration in the lab, introduction to computers and architecture.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Rose Rios, professor of mathematics at NJIT. Dr. Rios was herself a high school dropout for two years before she returned to school and graduated third in her class. She was accepted at NJIT and graduated with a 3.9 average and a

double major: applied mathematics and nuclear engineering. Her message to the students was relevant and compelling.

## Awards Night Ceremony

The ASPIRA Awards Night Ceremony is traditionally held at the end of each academic year to honor students who have achieved academic excellence, and demonstrated leadership and a commitment to their community.

This year the ceremony took place in June at Rutgers University, Cook College Campus Center. The keynote speaker was Honorable Severiano Lisboa, Superior Court Judge in Hudson County and an ASPIRA alumnus. New Jersey Governor Florio also sent a representative to deliver his message to the students. Over 250 students, staff and family members were present to witness the awards.

Ilda J. Rodas, from Barringer High School, received the "Aspirante of the Year" award for her leadership, academic excellence and active participation in the ASPIRA Club. Zilma Diaz, from Barringer PREP, received the "Pitirre" award for having shown most improvement in past academic performance.

Delia Sosa, from Ferris High School in Jersey City, and Aimee Acevedo, from Trenton Central High, both won scholarships for college expenses. Recognition was also given to the Woodrow Wilson High School and Pym Point Middle School ASPIRA Clubs for their excellent entries to the Banner Contest.

## ASPIRA UPCOMING EVENTS

### Southern Region Career Day Conference

Monday, November 19th  
Rutgers University, Camden  
For more information contact:  
Wanda De Jesus at 609-757-2893

### ASPIRA

#### Dance Troupe Performance: "Fiestas en el Batey"

Monday, November 19th, 7:00 p.m.  
Essex County College  
There will be food, music and dance.  
Everyone is welcome!  
For more information contact:  
Carmelo Figueroa at 201-484-7554

### ASPIRA Night

Friday, November 27th, 6:00 p.m.  
City Hall Atrium, Trenton  
Student presentations celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and ASPIRA's work in the southern region.  
Open to the public.  
For more information contact:  
Reynaldo Cortes at 609-392-1144

### Cultural Awareness Conference: "Cultura no es solo arroz y habichuela"

Friday, November 30th  
Rider College.  
For more information contact:  
Norma Santiago at 609-757-2893

### ASPIRA'S 14th Annual Luncheon

Wednesday, March 6th  
Quality Inn, Newark  
Everyone is invited!  
For more information contact:  
Carmen Nazario at 201-484-7554

## RECOGNIZE THIS AD?

You should because it has been displayed on most of Newark's buses and train stations. It features two of our Aspirantes, Ilda (Jessie) Rodas and Jeanette Montalvo with PSE&G employee and ASPIRA Board Member, Maria H. Colon. Ms. Colon became an ASPIRA counselor when she first came to New Jersey. She is now a Customer Services Specialist at PSE&G, a longtime corporate supporter of ASPIRA's programs. "I feel ASPIRA's mission is very important. My work with the agency has been very satisfying. It feels good to know that ASPIRA is helping our youth," she said.

# Volunteer Spirit.



Our Employees Have It

Maria H. Colon  
with Jeanette Montalvo (L)  
and Ilda (Jessie) Rodas (R)  
Aspirantes of New Jersey

**PSE&G**

Public Service  
Electric and Gas  
Company



ASPIRA's "bomba" dancers at the Newark P.R. Parade Gabriela Frias (l) and Ilda (Jessie) Rodas (r).

## A Splash of Color and Rhythm!

Front page of the Newark Star Ledger; The Trenton Times; El Nuevo Coqui; The Trentonian; Noticias del Mundo Plus statewide coverage on TV channels 47 and 41; the New Jersey Network; and radio station FM98. When ASPIRA puts on a special event, watch out because we really mean business!

ASPIRA's re-creation of the "Fiestas de Loiza Aldea," at the Newark and Trenton Puerto Rican Parades was something to see! Everyone is still talking about it and many have requested that the show go on the road.

Over 200 Aspirantes, staff, board members and friends dressed in costumes, and sang and danced down city streets to the beat of congas. There were "los caballeros y las seguidoras," the gentlemen and ladies of Spanish high society; "los vejigantes" or devils, wearing brightly painted masks with horns made of paper mache; "los viejos," the elderly; "las locas," the crazy men dressed as women; "los indios," the natives; and "las lavanderas," the washerwomen. All of these characters revealed the many tiered society that existed

during Spanish colonial times in Puerto Rico, over three hundred years ago.

Dances also depicted the distance between the social classes and the clash between the Taino (native Indian), Spanish and African cultures. The gentlemen dance around the devils in a warlike manner symbolizing the fight of Christianity against paganism.

The elderly villagers dance around the fighting. The crazy men dress as women and pretend to beg for money. The washerwomen wear long flowing skirts that lift as they twirl, enticing the drummers of the fiesta to play faster.

The ASPIRA presentation won first prize at the Newark Puerto Rican Day Parade. However, the greatest prize was the good time had by all. Several generations of Aspirantes and supporters put many summer weekends to work on this event. There was no mistake as to how everyone felt as the event ended. The smiles of pride and joy could be seen on the faces of participants and spectators alike!

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey is a nonprofit organization providing counseling and leadership development programs to Puerto Rican and other minority youth. Our programs include personal and educational counseling, dropout prevention, leadership development and post-secondary placement.

EL CLARIN is an ASPIRA publication, designed to inform the community of our programs and other issues of importance. For more information on ASPIRA, or to receive EL CLARIN you can write or call our executive office:

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